

Update on the State Council's S.B. 1270 Report



Senate Bill 1270

The Legislature requested the Council to provide a report and recommendations that support the following goals:

1. Expand peoples' opportunities in social, recreational and volunteer activities.
2. Expand work opportunities in the community.
3. Help make government jobs more open to people with disabilities.
4. Increase the use of creative ideas like vouchers, and self-directed services.
5. Look at successful models in California and other states.
6. Find ways to help make things work better by making some changes to regulations and funding.

Update

- On May 1, 2007 the State Council presented to the Governor and the Legislature the S.B. 1270 report.
- The report and recommendations have been well received by people with disabilities, families, advocates, service providers, regional centers, and state agencies.
- However, the work to make the recommendations produce positive outcomes for people with disabilities has just begun.
- This brief report covers an update on that work.

Recommendation #1: Make sure people with developmental disabilities and families get information about integrated employment, community participation, work and health benefits at their IPP meeting.

- Initiated discussions with the Legislature about adding language to the Lanterman Act to strengthen the IPP process. Suggestions include language that outlines discussions by the IPP team about employment options, community participation, benefits, and transition (as needed).
- Meeting with World Institute on Disability (WID) to consider developing legislation to pilot a phase-in of benefits counselors as regional center staff members.
- Working with WID to develop ways to market the free, online Disability Benefits 101 Calculator to individuals with developmental disabilities, families, and support teams.

Recommendation #2: People have their own self-directed service budgets, decide on the kinds of services they want, and buy their services.

- Met with the Department of Developmental Services to collaborate on the implementation of the Self-Directed Services Waiver now set for roll-out in 2008.
- Area Boards continue to work with the Self-Determination pilots to help bring continuity to the statewide waiver transition.

Recommendation #3: The State Council will ask state agencies like DDS, DOR and DOE to put funding together to help people with developmental disabilities and their families figure out what to do after high school.

- Since the New Day Conference and the SB 1270 report, several Area Boards and Regional Centers have developed a local transition task force to work on the challenging issues faced by individuals and their families as they move from school to the realities of adult living and working.
- The Council has met with the California Consortium for Postsecondary Education Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities to discuss strategies for expanding access to postsecondary education and training.

Recommendation #4: The State Council will work with its State Public Agency partners and all employers to hire more people with disabilities.

- Met with the Governor's Committee on Employment for People with Disabilities (Governor's Committee) to discuss collaborative strategies.
- The Council will participate in activities that highlight transition and career development as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October.
- Hiring individuals with disabilities has become a priority for the Council in filling current available positions.
- Discussions with the Governor's Office on supporting efforts to hold a public/private sector roundtable on employment for people with disabilities in the Spring of 2008.

Recommendation #5: Help individuals who have good ideas about work/job services or community services and people with developmental disabilities who want to start their own business.

- Supported presentation by individuals in self-employment to Partners in Policy Making training.
- Participating in J. Nolan conference on self-employment; focused on strategies for service providers who support individuals who are self-employed.
- Met with the California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity to collaborate on strategies for promoting self-employment for people with disabilities.
- The Council is developing strategies to support self-employment opportunities statewide.

Recommendation #6: Make sure support staff get the training they need to do a good job by putting together good trainers from across the state.

- Financial support for the online College of Direct Support currently operated by Arc California.
- Following current legislation written to develop a training pilot program to improve the use of recognized training resources for direct support workers.
- The Council is exploring opportunities to include individuals with developmental disabilities and family members in training that focuses on innovative services.

Recommendation #7: Get the word out about people with developmental disabilities who work and are involved in their communities.

- Met with CHIIP and the Governor's Committee to coordinate efforts to produce and disseminate statewide media.
- Collaborating with PRIDE Industries, CHIIP, and the Governor's Committee to cosponsor media events in conjunction with National Disability Awareness Month.
- Working with SB 1270 Consumer Advisory Group on additional media production.
- SB 1270 DVD has been shown throughout the State; the Council is considering a strategy for distribution to local cable stations.
- The Council and Area Boards continue to produce an e-letter that contains media information about people with developmental disabilities.

Recommendation #8: For people who work and get SSI, let them keep more of the money they earn and health benefits.

- After initial discussions with WID and other organizational partners, the Council will be initiating a forum to discuss the possibility of developing a statewide waiver.

Recommendation #9: Let Regional Centers pay for services that help people find and keep jobs and get out in the community to do things like everyone else.

- The Council has initiated discussions the California Rehabilitation Association on strategies to expand integrated work opportunities.
- Met with San Diego transportation advocates to discuss statewide strategies for expanding accessible transit.

Recommendation #10. Keep track of the work/employment situation of people with developmental disabilities and how they are involved in social and recreational activities in their communities.

- Working with the Department of Developmental Services and other state agency partners (for example, the Department of Rehabilitation, Employment Development Department, Governor's Committee) on options for gathering statewide data on employment and community participation.
- The Council has become a member of a statewide coalition of agencies working with the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN is a national technical assistance network) to develop ways to track employment, and social/recreation opportunities statewide.

Next Steps

- The Council presented the SB 1270 Report at a recent roundtable meeting regarding an update of the Lanterman Act. The meeting was hosted by Assemblyman Jim Beall, Chair of the Human Services Committee. The purpose of the update is to focus on adding language to the Act that more fully supports choice in community employment, social and recreation opportunities.
- In November, the Council will testify at a hearing of the Assembly Human Services Committee on legislative proposals related to the SB 1270 Report.

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